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on the point of a pin a particle of the superfluous material which has collected at the edge of the cover, which should form, when cold, a globule perfectly hard and not at all sticky.

OPAQUE-GLASS SLIDES. — Mr. Carl Meinert contributes to the Postal Club a slide having an opaque object mounted on a slide of white porcelain-glass. Some years ago Rev. E. C. Bolles suggested a similar use of black glass for white objects. Both methods make very handsome slides, though for real usefulness we prefer the ordinary slides, as there is scarcely an object on which it might not at some time be desired to pass light through the glass, while a dark background can always be easily secured.

EXCHANGES. — Diatomaceous material containing triceratium wanted in exchange for mounted specimens. Address G. C. Morris, E. Tulpehocken St., Germantown, Philadelphia.

“Plumule” scales of small cabbage butterfly (*Pieris Rapæ*), mounted, for good slides. Address Edward Pennock, 805 Franklin St., Philadelphia.

SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

— As the close season for salmon commences August 1st and extends to November 1st, no more of these fishes will be on sale while they are spawning in our rivers. The law is very stringent against their sale during the season, and makes it a misdemeanor to catch, sell, or have them in possession. — *San Francisco paper*.

— Dispatches of July 2d state that plentiful rains have fallen lately in the famine-stricken districts of Northern China, and the crops are in a flourishing condition. Locusts have, however, appeared in some parts and committed great ravages.

— The Shepard Scientific Collections have recently been purchased by the authorities of Amherst College, at a cost of \$40,000, a sum about one half their appraised value. These collections are three in number, a geological, a mineralogical, and a meteoric. The mineralogical collection is one of rare beauty and value, while the meteoric ranks as the fourth in point of size and interest in the world. The college has thus secured some of the most important and valuable collections possessed by any university, either in this country or in Europe. These collections were taken to Amherst from New Haven in 1847, and although deposited by Professor Shepard in the college cabinets at Amherst have hitherto been the property of Professor Shepard.

— Dr. A. B. Meyer, director of the Royal Zoölogical Museum of Dresden, announces his intention to publish figures of rare bird-skeletons, hitherto not at all or insufficiently figured. The work will be issued in parts, containing ten plates each, at intervals of about three months. The price of each part will be fifteen shillings, and the edition limited.

— Messrs. A. O. Hume, C. H. T. and G. F. L. Marshall will shortly

begin the publication of a work on the Game Birds of India, with colored illustrations of all the known species. The work is to be issued in three volumes, and will comprise not only the grouse, bustards, pheasants, jungle fowls, partridges, etc., but also the rails, cranes, swans, geese, ducks, snipes, woodcock, godwits, etc. Price per volume, twenty-one shillings six pence.

—Professor E. S. Morse, of Salem, Mass., is now busy with dredge and microscope in Japan, having fixed his headquarters at Inoshima, seventeen miles south of Yokohama. Recently he ascended one of the highest of the Japanese mountains, about one hundred miles from the coast, and found opportunity there for dredging Lake Chiussenji, a body of water 4000 feet above sea level. Its fauna was ascertained to be quite peculiar. Professor Morse will return to the United States in time for his usual courses of lectures during the coming autumn and winter; but afterwards, in 1878, he expects to go back to Japan, having accepted an engagement in the Imperial University of Tokio, as professor of biology. He has also projected a summer school of natural history, to be conducted on the coast near the university. His text-book for beginners in zoölogy is to be translated into the language of Japan, and animals native to that country are to be substituted for the American ones referred to throughout the volume.

—During the eruption of Cotopaxi, on the 26th of last June, the volcano, according to a writer in the *Nation* of September 6th, poured out a cataract “ten times the bulk of Niagara,” which swept away everything before it in its course and submerged a large extent of the surrounding country. The torrent divided and descended in several directions, one branch flowing southerly toward the city of Latacunga, twelve miles distant, but before reaching the city met the beds of three rivers, which carried away the waters and saved it from threatened destruction. The torrent, however, submerged the plain of Callo, and destroyed crops, factories, cattle, and bridges, and it is thought the ruins of the palace of the Incas, described by Humboldt, have not escaped its ravages. Another branch devastated the fertile valley of Chillo, destroying property valued at over two millions of dollars, while the loss of property in other sections is said to be equally great. It is also estimated that the loss of life will exceed one thousand souls. Although the surroundings of Quito were laid waste, the city itself suffered only from a storm of ashes, which fell first in the form of coarse, heavy sand, and later as a fine, impalpable dust, which penetrated everywhere. The darkness was intense for many hours and a reign of terror pervaded the city. It is said that ten years of peace and prosperity, of which there is now in Ecuador faint prospect, will not suffice to repair the evils wrought in a few hours during this memorable eruption.

—News to July 12th received by recent mails fully establishes the connection between the tidal phenomena observed on the northern coast of

Japan on the 11th of May and the disturbances which wrought, almost simultaneously, such destruction on the Peruvian coast, and were unquestionably the cause of the tidal waves, whose effects were noticed in such equally remote places as Hawaii and the eastern shores of the Australian continent.

— In the San Joaquin and other valleys to the southwestward the plains are so parched that the whole surface of the earth presents the appearance of an ash bank. Even the ground-squirrels are deserting the plains and moving up toward the foot-hills in search of food. The Indians regard this migration as indicative of an approaching wet winter. — R. E. C. S.

— Specimens of silver ore recently taken from the Cerro de Pasco silver mines in Peru show that the submerged portion of the mountain is very rich, and a rough estimate indicates that a body of ore will be exposed by the new tunnel which Meiggs, the South American railroad king, is to build, worth from three hundred million to five hundred million dollars. These mines have laid under water for fifty years, and are scarcely known to the present generation, though they had been worked for two hundred and fifty years, when the miners had to stop on account of the water. Peru has now discovered that a tunnel can be built which will drain the mountain completely by drawing off the lake from which the water in the mine comes; the first loads of the now submerged ore are expected to reach Lima in four months. It is predicted that within ten years more silver will be taken out than from the silver mines in Nevada. This tunnel will in importance be a rival to the famous Sutro tunnel, which is to drain the great Comstock lode of Nevada, though the latter is of much greater extent. — R. E. C. S.

PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES.

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE. — The twenty-sixth meeting of the association was held at Nashville, Tenn., beginning August 29th and ending September 4th,— the first gathering of the association in a Southern city for nineteen years. One hundred and seventy members and fellows were in attendance, and about two hundred and twenty new members were elected; thirty were added to the list of fellows. Although the number of fellows and members present was less than at some former meetings, the number of new members added was considerably above the average, and the papers read will compare favorably in point of number and quality with those of previous sessions. The reception tendered by the citizens of Nashville to the association could scarcely have been more cordial or appreciative, while the greatest harmony and good feeling characterized the deliberations of the meetings. The reason for the rather smaller attendance than usual is not far to seek, being evidently due in part to the great